

May 24, 1983

LB 211

CLERK: Mr. President, the motion offered by Senator Chambers is on page 2294.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, it has been alleged in the past that I don't know how to dress appropriately for occasions and I wanted to demonstrate that I do know how. Now this is a proposition which has been offered on a number of occasions but we have never gotten around to discussing it. There have been fumbles, changed signals, audibles at the line, and because of the defense of the linemen caused by other bills, a postponement of the game itself. What I want you to do though is take seriously what I am going to offer you. If you turn to your bill book you will see LB 211. I do have a motion on the desk to suspend the rules to take up this proposition because had I brought it up a few days after it was killed it would have taken only 30 votes. Now, Senator Lamb, you don't know for sure who is in this helmet, do you? Because more than the number of days did elapse, it would require 33. I don't think I will offer the motion to suspend the rules because if I can come as close as 30 I am sure that I could find 3 others who would be willing to join me in raising this bill. Despite this attire, I want you to realize that I am as serious as a heart attack in offering this bill, in offering this motion to revive it. The reason I would like to have it revived is so that there will be a discussing point for me and others who view the players as workers even though they cannot retain their eligibility if they are actually deemed employees and compensated. They are considered amateurs no longer for purposes of NCAA participation in football. But to show how all these rules are merely matters of definition and they are defined that way for the convenience of the University, the various football conferences and the NCAA itself, a football player can retain his eligibility as an amateur to participate even though he plays professional baseball which Turner Gill may be considering now, which John Elway did as a football player for Stanford University. To indicate the disadvantages that the players are under which no other students would face, any student not an athlete, even if he or she be at the University on scholarship, can do various jobs around the University and be compensated and still retain scholarship status. The player not only cannot be paid for playing football, not only cannot be given a part-time job on campus but cannot hold a job any place during the time that the season is in progress. That means that many players whose only reason for being at the University is their ability to play football and not their economic status will walk on campus